

# Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile

## UTAH

### Updated: March 20, 2001

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

<b>Focus Areas Funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epidemiology and Surveillance – Core</li> <li>• Laboratory Capacity for Biologic Agents</li> <li>• Health Alert Network</li> </ul>
<b>Utah has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing influenza surveillance to include 20 sentinel health care providers and 15 sentinel schools or school districts</li> <li>• Completing the Department of Justice statewide assessment of bioterrorism preparedness</li> <li>• Developing and training an outbreak investigation team</li> <li>• Establishing relationships with physicians at the University of Utah Medical School for infectious disease consultations</li> <li>• Participating in the Joint Terrorism Task Force and other multi-agency bioterrorism preparedness committees</li> <li>• Participating in 4 table-top exercises supported by the SBCCom and SAIC</li> <li>• Establishing a development team to assess, develop, and coordinate all HAN activities at the local health department level</li> <li>• Completing an assessment of local information/communication systems, informatics workforce skills and competencies, and bioterrorism preparedness</li> <li>• Assuring that each local health department has access to computers, e-mail connectivity, appropriate back-up connectivity to the Internet, and broadcast fax capability</li> <li>• Developing and implementing the emergency notification component of the HAN</li> <li>• Providing each local health department with a video conferencing system</li> <li>• Developing level B laboratory testing capability for select bioterrorism agents</li> <li>• Developing a laboratory safety training manual that can be used for workforce competency evaluation</li> <li>• Establishing a Bioterrorism Laboratory Working Group that meets weekly to address quality assurance issues</li> <li>• Establishing a laboratory reporting mechanism by which critical positive test results are reported to the provider the same day and the Bureau of Epidemiology receives a daily report of positive test results and relevant data</li> <li>• Establishing a multidisciplinary, multiagency Active Surveillance Group with a pilot clinical partner. The group is currently focused on diarrheal surveillance, but will add upper respiratory and rash surveillance during the next year.</li> <li>• Collaborating with the Medical Examiner's Office to monitor cases of infant botulism</li> <li>• Developing two computer-based level A laboratory training exercises</li> </ul>

<b>Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a syndromic surveillance system based on pharmacy restock data</li> <li>• Assisting local health departments in the development of local disaster preparedness plans</li> <li>• Training outbreak teams to investigate potential bioterrorism incidents</li> <li>• Updating the state communicable disease rule</li> <li>• Ensuring the necessary legal authorities for investigation of and response to bioterrorism</li> <li>• Establishing partnerships with Utah Poison Control and 911 services</li> <li>• Developing training manuals for various aspects of bioterrorism response</li> <li>• Upgrading laboratory capacity to level B+ for select bioterrorism agents</li> <li>• Establishing protocols and training laboratory staff in the safe handling and transport of specimens</li> <li>• Assessing training needs of level A laboratories</li> <li>• Developing a model response plan for local health departments</li> <li>• Developing wireless capacity to support the HAN</li> <li>• Enhancing and testing the alert notification system</li> <li>• Developing a computer-based training curriculum</li> <li>• Establishing a statewide paging system for local health departments</li> </ul>
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<b>Key Emergency Contacts</b>	<table> <tr> <td><u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u></td><td>(303) 235-4812</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u></td><td>(801) 538-3400</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u></td><td>(801) 579-1400</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>State Public Health Agency:</u></td><td>(801) 538-6111</td></tr> </table>	<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(303) 235-4812	<u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(801) 538-3400	<u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u>	(801) 579-1400	<u>State Public Health Agency:</u>	(801) 538-6111
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<b>Anecdotes</b>									

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